

2015 Preventive Roof/Rib Outreach Program

Just Because It's Supported Doesn't Mean It's Safe

The Problem

- Falls of roof continue to be a leading cause of accidents and injuries in underground coal mines.
- During the last three years, nearly 800 miners were injured by falls of roof.
- Nearly all these injuries occurred while the miners were under supported roof.
- Most of the roof fall injuries were not caused by major roof collapses, but from rocks falling between supports.
- Improper examinations can result in hazardous roof and rib conditions not always being identified and corrected.

The Solution

- Conduct thorough examinations and watch for changing roof and rib conditions.
- Always scale loose roof or ribs.
- Remember—the roof control plan is a minimum; conditions may require additional support.
- Communicate—tell your co-workers and your foreman about hazardous conditions so that the conditions can be corrected.
- Use roof and skin control where appropriate.
- Screen wire mesh is the most effective skin control technique.
- Position ATRS and canopies to maximize protection.